

#### REMARKS

The Abstract has been amended such that it is now less than 150 words.

The claims have been amended to more clearly define the invention as disclosed in the written description. In particular, claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 13-15 and 20-24 have been cancelled, while claims 3 and 4 have been made proper independent claims and each include the limitations of cancelled claim 1; claims 9 and 10 have each been made proper independent claims, and each includes the limitations of cancelled claim 7; and claim 16 has been made a proper independent claim and includes the limitations of cancelled claim 13.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 13, 14, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,195,501 to Perry et al. in view of U.S. Patent 6,631,435 to Lym et al. In addition, the Examiner has rejected claims 15, 22, 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perry et al. in view of Lym et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,762,798 to Messer et al. Applicant acknowledges that the Examiner has found claims 3-6, 9-12 and 16-19 allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the above changes, Applicant believes that the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejections have been overcome.

Applicant believes that this application, containing claims 3-6, 9-12 and 16-19, is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

by /Edward W. Goodman/  
Edward W. Goodman, Reg. 28,613  
Attorney  
Tel.: 914-333-9611